

Arrest

When an American Citizen is arrested, the consular officer will visit the detainee and, at the detainee's request, contact family members and/or others. The Consular Section maintains a list of attorneys practicing in Sierra Leone. The Consular Officer, however, is not permitted to advise Americans on legal matters or to recommend a particular lawyer.

Please contact the U.S. Embassy Consular Section immediately to report the arrest of a U.S. citizen. The Department of State web site describes the type of assistance that the Consular Section can offer in the case of the [Arrest or Detention of an American Citizen Abroad](#).

U.S. citizens in Sierra Leone are subject to the laws of the Sierra Leonean government. If a U.S. citizen is arrested in Sierra Leone, a Consular Officer will visit the prisoner where he or she is being detained to verify his or her wellbeing, to facilitate communication with family members, and to provide a list of local lawyers. The Consular Section cannot pay for legal representation. Consular Officers monitor conditions in Sierra Leonean prisons and can protest allegations of abuse against U.S. citizen prisoners.